

## FORWARD

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The process of developing a document of this magnitude has been long and arduous. It began in the spring of 1992 at the "Goals for Community Revitalization" workshop sponsored by the Lancaster County Extension Office. It was clear at that time that Bennet and the surrounding area could undoubtedly realize benefit from a new Comprehensive Plan.

The last Comprehensive Plan was completed for the Village of Bennet in 1972 by the State Office of Planning and Programming. Unlike the 1972 plan, this Comprehensive Plan has been developed by the members of the Bennet Planning Commission. Consulting services were provided by JEO & Associates who worked with the Planning Commission on the future land use portion of the plan, and provided general advice and assistance to the project. Research, including the various surveys and town meetings over the past three years, as well as the bulk of the written portion of the plan was completed by the members of the Bennet Planning Commission. It has been the hope of the Planning Commission that by using local residents as the basis for the inspiration of the plan, it would more accurately reflect the thoughts, attitudes and ideals of the residents of the Village.

A Comprehensive Development Plan is to be a "living document", a document that will continually be referenced and used as the guiding instrument when decisions are being made by the Village. The plan should not be put on a shelf to collect dust or filed away in obscurity. Rather, it should be reviewed periodically and updated as necessary to accurately reflect the current conditions and attitudes of the Village and its residents.

This plan reflects over 2 years of hard work by the members of the Planning Commission. We are very proud of the fruits of that labor and feel confident that the recommendations therein reflect the attitudes and ideals of the overwhelming majority of the residents of the Village.

It has truly been a "grass roots" effort that has produced this plan and is something all can be proud of. We would like to thank the past and present members of the Planning Commission as well as the past and present members of the Village Board of Trustees for all their work, support and patience. We would like to thank Joe and Joy Gerdorf of JEO & Associates for all their work and invaluable guidance. We would also like to thank all the volunteers that helped distribute and retrieve the various surveys and questionnaires over the past three years. And finally we would like to thank you, the residents of the Village of Bennet and the surrounding area, for completing the surveys, attending the meetings and making your wishes known. It is for you that the effort was made and the plan prepared.